

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II

DATE:

MAR 08 1989

SUBJECT:

Enforcement Action at Synkote Paint, Elmwood Park, New Jersey

FROM:

*R. Salkie*  
Richard C. Salkie, Associate Director for  
Removal and Emergency Preparedness Programs

TO:

George Pavlou, Associate Director for  
Enforcement Programs

On February 16, 1989, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection formally requested a removal action at Synkote Paint, Elmwood Park, N.J. Attached is a copy of this letter.

It appears that this site will meet the criteria for a removal action. As such, I would appreciate it if a person from your staff could be assigned to this site. This site will be handled by the Response and Prevention Branch with the OSC being Dwayne Harrington.

Please have your Project Manager contact Dwayne at FTS 340-6899.

Attachment

cc: S. Luftig, 2ERR  
B. Sprague, 2ERR-RPB





**State of New Jersey**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Michele M. Putnam  
Deputy Director

John J. Trela, Ph.D., Director  
401 East State St.  
CN 028  
Trenton, N.J. 08625-0028  
(609)633-1408

Lance R. Miller  
Deputy Director

*Hazardous Waste Operations*

*Responsible Party Remedial Action*

Stephen Luftig, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10278

FEB 16 1989

Dear Director Luftig:

Re: Removal Request - Synkote Paint  
144-160 Van Riper Avenue  
Elmwood Park, New Jersey

RECEIVED

2/13/89 5:00 PM

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection hereby submits the Synkote Paint site for CERCLA removal action consideration. The following information details the case history and supports the removal request.

The Synkote Paint site occupies nearly one-half acre (Block 1401, Lot 1) in a mixed residential/light industrial section of Elmwood Park, Bergen County. Synkote Paint manufactured solvent based industrial coatings at the above location from 1956 until the company filed for bankruptcy and closed in 1985. At this time, the NJDEP issued a Directive with which the owner failed to comply.

A NJDEP inspection on November 10, 1988 revealed approximately 200 55-gallon drums which contained flammables, corrosives and other hazardous wastes stored outside the former manufacturing building. Many of the drums were in poor condition and had released their contents onto the ground.


Inspection of the building's interior revealed additional drums and assorted containers of flammables, corrosives, poisons as well as unknowns. Spillage was noted throughout the building and evidence of leakage was observed under reactor vessels suggesting that these vessels contain residual material.

Although the outside areas of the property are surrounded by an eight-foot fence, vandals have gained access to all parts of the property through the building. Considering the nature and volume of the material and the ineffectiveness of present security measures, further action is necessary to eliminate the possibility of fire or public exposure.

The president of Synkote Paint is Richard Max of 578 Dorchester Avenue, Rivervale, New Jersey. The property was recently purchased at a sheriff's sale by Property Concepts, Inc., 519 River Drive, Elmwood Park, New Jersey. A Directive will be issued to the current owner by February 17, 1989.

Should your staff require additional information, please have them contact Ken Kloo of the Bureau of Planning and Assessment at (609) 633-2219. Thank you again for your continued cooperation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John J. Trela". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John J. Trela, Ph.D.  
Director

KK:mz

c: Richard Salkie, USEPA

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cc: S. Luftig, 2ERR  
B. Sprague, 2ERR-RPB

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R-P662-3274



*Salvini*

State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
DIVISION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Michele M. Putnam  
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Lance R. Miller  
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FEB 10 1989

Stephen Luftig, Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10278

Dear Director Luftig:

Re. Removal Request - Synkote Paint  
144-160 Van Riper Avenue  
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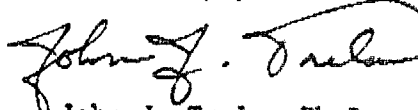
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New Jersey is an Equal Opportunity Employer  
Recycled Paper

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Director

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